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A Proposal for Doctoral Research Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities,

Entitled

Reflections of The Indian Reformative Movements in The Select Novels by R.K.Narayan, Arundhati Roy and Rohinston Mistry.

Research Student :

Shivguru Shrirang Vhandkar

Asst. Professor,

Dept. of English.

Rashtrapita Mahatma Gandhi Mahavidyalaya, Khednagar.

Tq: Karjat, Dist. Ahemadnagar.

Research Supervisor :

Dr. Machindra H. Khandagale

Asst. Professor,

PG and Research Dept. of English.

Dayanand College Of Arts, Latur.

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Introduction :-

Since it is true that Britishers were exploiters and harsh rulers, they exploited many ways to Indian people but in some extent, they brought modern values, science and rational thinking in India. The Charter Act of 1813 directed to the company to spend one lakh rupees on the education of Indian people. Thomas Macaulay, the first law member in the governor general's council, promoted the English language as a tool for educating the people in western thought and ideals, the Government passed an act for imparting western education through the medium of English. Britishers provided western education to the Indian people for the purpose of trained man power for their Bureauciacy but western education influenced India society in a way that the British could never have imagined. Theories of John lock, Jeremy Benthem, Adam Smith, Voltair, Russow instilled in the Indian mind notion of freedom, liberty, equality and .democracy. As a result of the exposure to such ideas, Indians began to recognizethe need of change.

Many reformative movements in 18th and 19th century emerged in India which brought drastic change in Indian society. Indian society was deeply rooted in bad practices of sati , purdah system, child marriage, infanticide, dowry death, polygamy, fourfold division of society(chaturvarya), caste discrimination, untouchability, superstitions, women oppression, discrimination on the basis of caste, gender, etc. Some social reformer raised voice against such bad practices. Raja Ram Mohan Roy who was influenced by western progressive thought, criticized idol worship of Hindus and supported monotheism, he protested against bad practices of 'Sati' in Hindu religion. Swami Dayanand Sarswati attacked social evils like caste system, superstitions and untouchability.

Mahatma Jyotiba Phule was influenced by Thomas Paine. He started movement against prevailing social evils such as caste system, untouchability, women's pathetic condition, poor conditions of peasant etc. He was supporter of widow remarriage. He started first girls' school in Pune. He was against 'Varna System'. He formed the 'Satyashodhak Samaj' for social reformation. Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar was one of the aggressive reformer for untouchable and

lower caste people. He attacked religious book called 'Manusmriti' having discriminating philosophy for the lower caste people. He protested against caste and varna system. Maharashi Dhondo Keshav Karve and Vitthal Ramji Shinde struggled for women education, established a women university called S.N.D.T. He also supported the abolition of caste system and practice of untouchability in traditional Hindu society. Dhondo Karve established 'Samata Sangh' for the promotion of human equality. Gopal Ganesh Agarkar and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar also were the prominent reformers.

Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj gave special importance to the education of the masses. He started boarding for the student of backward classes. So that they could continue their education. He vehemently opposed caste discrimination and took many steps to abolish untouchability. Social reformers were trying to uplift the society from bad evils. Swami Vivekananda was one of the reformer who attacked idol worship and revived the concept of spiritualism. He delivered inspirational speech to youth for building the nation. Lokmanya Tilak started two weeklies i.e 'Kesari' in Marathi and 'Maratha' in English to enlighten the Indian people socially and politically. He took active part in Indian freedom Movement and advocated swadeshi goods. He started 'Shivjayanti' for the unity of nation and awakened patriotism in the mind of youths.

These great social reformers emancipated Indian society from bad practices. It's impact is found in R.K. Narayan's novels, so he portrayed characters to highlight these evil practices and customs running in the society.R.K.Narayan in his famous novel 'The Guide', portrays a character named Raju. He transfers himself as a sage. People gather in the novel to see railway Raju to see as holy man and he has to live rest of his life as holy man. Worshiping god is a good thing for Raju where people in Malgudi were not giving honour in Malgudi when he was a guide.In 'The Guide' Mangal villager ask Raju to perform a fast to end the famine that has been severely affecting their village. So the protagonist Raju performs fast that idea of superstition has been portrayed. In the novel, Swami and Friends nationalism has been portrayed in the form of character Swaminathan. Colonisation and it's effect is clearly seen in the fictional town having a such locale that has railway station, the Mempi forest, market Road, the Sarayu river rural life a typical Indian village which represents all villages in India.

The Protagonist of novel 'Dark Room' is a typical Indian woman Savitri, who is symbol of traditional Indian woman hood, whose place is in the Dark Room (Kitchen) is a timid, silent suffering and sacrificing Indian wife. Her husband considers her as an object of sex. She leaves her husband's house for committing suicide. The character portrayed in the present novel shows oppressionof patriarchal society where woman has no right to speak against it.Dhondo Keshav

Karve has tried to uplift the poor condition of woman in society and family through his reformative movement.

The Vendor of Sweets- The novel portrays a character of Jagan an orthodoxical Hindu who follows strongly religion and rituals where as the character like Mali Jagan's son seems to be out of caste and religion. He get married with half-American wife, that indicates the impact of reforms philosophy of inter caste marriage. Social Reformative Movements advocated inter-caste marriage, that is seen in the characterization of R.K. Narayan's novels. In the novel, Man-Eater of-Malgudi, Nataraj represents the 'good' in the story and Vasu is the 'evil' on a large scale, each character represents the two culture of India and Britain and the effect of British colonialism that is opposed by Lokmanya Tilak. The character portrayed Vasu is on the other hand is a taxidermist which indicates caste and their ancestral work because of what he is hated by the society. In the setting of this novel R.K. Narayan has shown such people have to work inferior task such as hunting spree, poaching animals bring dead animal, skins and solvents.

In the novel 'The Painter of Sign', the character Rosie comes out from boredom of household life in search of job to make herself financially independent. Conventions and orthodoxies were being replaced by common sense and broad mindedness. Women are no more seen as a subordinate. She felt a need to realize herself not only as a wife and a mother but also a human being. The character is positive portrayed by R.K. Narayan for upliftment of woman in 'waiting for Mahatma' themes like 'Quit India Movement' and nationalism are portrayed in the novel and transformation of freedom movement into a mass movement. The protagonist Sriram indicates nationalism that has been advocated by reformative movement.R.K. Narayan in his novel 'The Bachelor of Arts' portrayed a character named Chandan, who resembles an Indian upper middle class youth. He fall in love with a girl who is non-manglik but her parents don't allow to get marry with him because he is manglik that is horoscope do not match if it is done non-manglik will die. In this way R.K. Narayan has expressed superstitions in the novel.

Arundhati Roy in her debut award winning novel 'The God of Small Things', portrays characters which show caste discrimination, Chatur Varna system, communism and women oppression. In the novel, 'Ammu', a female character is abused and tortured by her husband. She comes back with her children Rahel and Estha to her father's house. She comes in contact with a protagonist 'Velutha' who is an untouchable (a dalit) and his family has served for the generations of Ammu. He is an extremely gifted carpenter and mechanic but draws resentment and hostility from other 'touchable' factory workers. He loves Ammu but he can't get married because she belongs to upper caste. It is the effect of reformative movement that

Arundhati Roy could speak or raise voice against such practices in the society. In fact, she strongly supports communist philosophy. Her second novel 'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness', deals with some of the darkest and most violent episodes of modern Indian history, from land reforms that disowned poor farmers in 2002, Godhra train burning and Kashmir insurgency. She has taken active participation in different social movements. She was criticized for vocal support to the 'maiost' group and communist campaign.

Rohinston Mistry in his novel 'Fine Balance', portrays characters such as Ishwar and Omprakash. Their families belong to Chammar caste who traditionally cure leather and are considered untouchable, is an attempt to break away from the restrictive caste system. Four characters comes from different background and they have to face poverty. They have to face upper caste supremancy. Dina and the tailors business run fairly for almost a year but effect of emergency bother them. They have to relocate because of government orders. The dictatorship of prime leader has been shown in the novel. Because of dictatorship these characters have to ruin their life. So the Characters portrayed in the novels show the impact of reformative movement. Different reformative movements, Dalit movement and Communist movement have impact on writing of R.K.Narayan, Arundhati Roy and Rohinston Mistry's Novel in setting, characterization and language.

Life and Works of R.K. Narayan :

Rasipuram Krishnaswami Narayan was born into a prosperous middle-class family on October 10, 1906, in Madras, India. There he spent his early years with his grandmother and uncle. Later he joined his parents, brothers, and sisters in the family home in Mysore. Mysore is probably the basis of his fictional city Malgudi, an Indian city as complex and as real as William Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha County. Although according to his memoirs he was never particularly enthusiastic about academic work, Narayan attended a Lutheran mission school and Christian College High School (both in Madras) and in 1930 received his B.A. from Maharaja's College (later the University of Mysore). He married in 1933; his wife, Rajam, gave birth to their only child, a daughter named Hema, in 1938. Rajam died of typhoid in 1939. Narayan never remarried.

Narayan began reporting for the Madras newspaper The Justice in 1933. After brief stints in teaching and journalism, he decided that he would be a fiction writer. His first novel, Swami and Friends, the comic story of two young Indian boys, was set in the fictional city that would make him famous. Yet the friend in England to whom Narayan had entrusted his

manuscript could not find a publisher for it. In despair Narayan told his friend to destroy it. Instead, the friend took the manuscript to the writer Graham Greene, who was so impressed that he placed it with a publisher.

In his second book, The Bachelor of Arts, published two years later, Narayan takes a young man into a marriage, arranged, like the writer's own, with the help of a horoscope. The Dark Room also deals with a marriage, but one far less happy than that of Narayan. When his own beloved young wife died of typhoid, Narayan faced a spiritual crisis; out of that crisis came the spiritual growth, the intellectual maturity, and the acceptance of life which would bring to Narayan new status as a writer. After his father's death in 1937, Narayan began selling articles to magazines. That year, British novelist W. Somerset Maugham visited Mysore and read Narayan's work. In 1938, Narayan received a government grant to write a travel book about Karnataka state, and this experience provided information for many future works. In 1939 he began writing stories for the Madras newspaper The Hindu. He began publishing his own periodical, Indian Thought, in 1941. He passed away in May 13, 2001.

Works :

Novels :

Swami and Friends (1935), The Bachelor of Arts (1937), The Dark Room (1938)

The English Teacher (1945), Mr Sampath- The printer of Malgudi (1949)

The Financial Expert (1952), Waiting For the Mahatma (1955), The Guide (1958)

The Man-Eater of Malgudi (1961), The Vendor of Sweets (1967), The Painter of Signs (1976)

A Tiger for Malgudi (1983), Talkative Man (1986), The World of Nagaraj (1990)

The Grandmother's Tale (1992), The Vendor of Sweets (1967

Life and works of Arundhati Roy

Suzana Arundhati Ro**y (**born,Nov24,1961,Shilong ,Meghalaya) Indian author, actress and political activist who was best known for award –winning novel. The God of Small Things (1997) and for her involvement and human rights causes. Roy's father was Bengali tea planter and her mother was a Christian Keralian who challenged India's inheritance laws for equal rights in her husband's property when she got divorced .Her first novel 'The God of Small Things 'in 1992 .She got booker prize for this debute novel .

In the later stage, she wrote Power Politics (2001), The Algebra of Infinite Justice (2002), War Talk (2003), Public Power in the Age of Empire (2004), Field Notes on Democracy: Listening to Grass shopper (2009), Broken Republic, Three Essays (2011) and capitalism: A Ghost Story (2014) in 2017. Roy published 'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness', her first novel in 20 years . The work blends personal stories with topical issues as it uses a large cast characters, including a transgender woman and resistance fighter in Kashmir, to explore contemporary India.

She won the 'Iannan Foundation Cultural Award' in 2002 for her work regarding the civil societies that are adversely affected by the words of most tyrannical governments and monopolies. In addition, she was awarded a special recognition as woman of peace at Global Human Rights Awards in San Francisco in 2003. She also received the 'Sahitya Akademi Award' a national award from India's academy of letters for their collection of essays on contemporary issues, 'The Algebra of Infinite Justice'.

Life and works of Rohinston Mistry

Rohinton Mistry was born in 1952 in Bombay, India to a Parsi Gujarati family. His brother is the playwright and author Cyrus Mistry. He earned a BA in Mathematics and Economics from St. Xavier's College, Bombay. He emigrated to Canada with his wife-to-be Freny Elavia in 1975 and they married shortly afterwards. Mistry studied at the University of Toronto and received a BA in English and Philosophy. He worked in a bank for a while, before returning to studies, leading up to a degree in English and philosophy.

While attending the University of Toronto (Woodsworth College) he won two Hart House literary prizes (the first to win two), for stories which were published in the Hart House Review, and Canadian Fiction Magazine"s annual Contributor's Prize for 1985. Three years later, Penguin Books Canada published his collection of 11 short stories, Tales from Firozsha Baag. It was later published in the United States as Swimming Lessons and Other Stories from Firozsha Baag. The book consists of 11 short stories, all set within one apartment complex in modern-day Bombay. This volume contains the oft-anthologized story, "Swimming Lessons." His second book, the novel Such a Long Journey, was published in 1991. It won the Governor General's Award, the Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best Book, and the W.H. Smith/Books in Canada First Novel Award. It was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and for the Trillium Award. It has been translated into German, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish and Japanese. It was adapted for the 1998 film Such a Long Journey.

His third book, and second novel, A Fine Balance (1995), won the second annual Giller Prize in 1995, and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Fiction in 1996. It was selected for Oprah's Book Club in November 2001 and sold hundreds of thousands of additional copies throughout North America as a result. It won the 1996 Commonwealth Writers Prize and was shortlisted for the 1996 Booker prize. Family Matters is a consideration of the difficulties that come with ageing, which Mistry returned to in 2008 with the short fiction The Scream (published as a separate volume, in support of World Literacy of Canada, with illustrations by Tony Urquhart). His books portray diverse facets of Indian socioeconomic life; as well as Parsi Zoroastrian life, customs, and religion. Many of his writings are markedly "Indo-nostalgic". His literary papers are housed at the Clara Thomas Archives at York University. In 2002, Mistry cancelled his United States book tour for his novel Family Matters (2002) after he and his wife were targeted by security agents at every airport he visited. He got Commonwealth Prize in 1991 such a long journey as well as first novel award in Canada. In 1995, Los Angeles Times Book Prize for fiction for his novel 'Fine Balance'. In 2002 he was shortlisted for Man Booker Prize for his novel 'Family Matters'. In 2012 he got Neustadt International Prize for Literature Award.

Review of Literature :

In the 19th century with the publication of Bakimchandra Chatterjee's Rajmohan's wife (1864) and Lal Behari Day's Govind Samanta (1874), Indian novel in English has grown by leaps and bound in respect of thematic variety and linguistic style. Both the author have used an acquired language to comment on the Indian social context. It is assumed that Indian novel in English has its roots in the19thcentury realistic tradition of English novel.The impact of English education national awaking and influence of European models are the chief factors responsible for the rise and development of novel. Indian novel in English was affected by socio-political upheavals during the 1930's onwards.

The writer such as Mulk Raj Anand, R.K.Narayan and Raja Rao attempted to explore the contemporary Indian society from their specific views without distorting the reality. There were reformist and didactic Mulk Raj Anand, R.K.Narayan and Raja Rao emerged on the literary scene in 1930. It was the real beginning of Indian novel in English. They were labelled by William Walsh as "The Founding Father", "The Genuine Novelists", and inaugurates of the form, they made there appearance in the thirties with publication of Untouchable (1935), Swami and Friends (1935) and Kanthapura (1938) respectively and established the tradition of Indian English fiction.R.K.Narayan is the novelist of middle class sensibility. He is natural story teller

in his novels from Swami and Friends (1935) to The Painter of Signs (1976). His novels The Bachelor of Arts (1937), The Dark Room (1938), The English Teacher brilantly and realistic describe the south-Indian life. William Walsh say that R.K.Narayan's writing is 'a distinctive blend of western technique and eastern material'. The world of R.K.Narayan's novels is Malgudi, and imaginary-south Indian town.

Raja rao is another prominent writer but not as prolific writer as Mulk Raj Anand and R.K. Narayan. His concern with philosophical and mythological aspects distinguishes him from Mulk Raj Anand and R.K. Narayan. His first novel Kantapura, the describes the village life and peasant sensibility.The post-Independence Indian novel is termed as modern novel. Modernism through came late to India. It has played an important role in shaping the second generation novelist such as Bhabhani Bhattacharya, B Rajan, Malgaonkar, Khushwant Singh, Chaman Nahal, Arun Joshi, Kamala Markandgaya, R.P Jhabval, Nayantara Sahgal, Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande and a few others who have made a tremendous contribution to novel in 1950's, 1960's and 1970's.

The Indian novelists before Independence basically wrote novel on social, political and historical concerns. But later in 1950 a new kind of novel dealing with contemporary issues appeared on the Indian literary scene. A number of Novelist like Arun Joshi and Anita Desai have explored the psychological and sociological concerns to the inner life of human being. Many modern Indian novels deal with man's alienation from his self, his class, his society and humanity at large. In Other words center of their novel shifted from society to an individual but still some writers had great impact of reformative movement so they portrayed characters and made setting in such way that it could be part of the social movement So the pre-Independence writers and post-Independence writers were conscious about society and it's problem. Most of the writer seems that they have impact of reformative movement in their writing style, characterization and in setting. The same impact is found in the writing of R.K. Narayan ,Arundhati Roy and Rohinston Mistry in the novels and short stories.

Therefore, no such a research regarding role of Indian reformative movements in the novels of R.K. Narayan, Arundhati Roy and Rohinston Mistry has been carried out in this perspectives.

Rationale behind the Research Work :

In pre-Independence era, Reformative movements emerged and reformers had done great change in society. The contemporary writer like Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao and R.K. Narayan were influenced by these movement and they have tried their best to eradicate or introduce social problems, rituals, in front of society. They portrayed characters and performed setting in such way that they were part of reformative movement.R.K. Narayan had tremendous impact of reformative movements on his writing so he created characters which portrait society. In post Independence era, some writers were influenced by Reformative Movement .Some of them are Arundhati Roy and Rohinston Mistry .The role of Indian reformative movement and its impact is need to be studied.

Therefore, the proposed research will search role of reformative movements in shaping these novelists in the reformative perspectives.

Hypothesis :

1) These novels represent superstitions and myth.
2) These novels highlight impact of reformative movement.
3) These novels represent the effects of colonization
4) These novels deal with woman oppression.
5) These novels portrait caste system and discrimination.
6) These novels highlight discrimination and untouchability.

Aims and Objectives :

1) To study role of reformative movement in setting and characterization of novels.
2) To study caste system and discrimination.
3) To study myth and superstitions in the society.
4) To study social evil rituals, social issues and it's impact on society.
5) To study the Pre-Independence and Post-Independence characterization ,setting of novel.

Research Method :

The analytical, interpretative and descriptive methods will be used for the present study. The focus of study will be close reading of the primary and secondary sources.

Proposed Chapter Scheme

Chapter I : Introduction

Chapter II : Indian Reformative Movements

Chapter III: Representation of Caste in R.K. Narayan, Arundhati Roy and Rohinston Mistry's Novels.

Chapter IV: Reflection of woman opression in R.K. Narayan, Arundhati Roy and Rohinston Mistry's Novels.

Chapter V: Reflection of Social Rituals and Issues in R.K. Narayan, Arundhati Roy, Rohinston Mistry's Novels.

Chapter VI: Conclusion

Bibliography :

This part will contain selected scholarly reference books, useful encyclopedia, Journals, reference books related to this topic. The selected websites also be enlisted in bibliography.

Primary Data :

1) Swami and Friends of 1935 Hamilton publication.
2) The Bachelor of Arts by Vintage Classic publication on August 3rd 2000.
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3) Contemporary Indian English fiction, Jalandhar : ABS Publication, 1993 written by K.N. Awasthi.
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5) A History of the Indian novel in English edited by Ulka Anjaria, Cambridge University Press.
6) Social Reformers in India (Encyclopedia history of Indian culture and religion) by S.R. Bakshi.

Web Links :

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2) https://www.enotes.com/topics/r-k-narayan
3) https://en.m.wikipedia.org
4) https://www.infoqueenbee.com
5) https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com
6) https://www.famousauthors.org

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Shivguru Shrirang Vhandkar Dr. Machindra H. Khandagale

Research Centre

Dayanand College of Arts, Latur